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Waukegan police will soon receive \$846,000 in federal money to help officers combat gangs in the city and beyond, officials said.

The U.S. Department of Justice grant, which would be distributed over two years and was procured with help from Rep. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.), would be the largest infusion the city has received for anti-gang initiatives, said Police Chief Bill Biang.

The money will allow the Police Department to devote more staffing, through increased overtime, to its gang and drug operations, including more enforcement, prevention and community programs.

It would also expand Waukegan's partnership with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to other municipalities in Lake County with gang problems.